

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) Method for sharing load information between radio network controllers connected to a core network by a first standard interface (Iu) and to each other by a second standard interface (Iur) and used for facilitating a macrodiversity function where data is sent via multiple Node Bs to a user equipment, said radio network controllers for operating in an environment where the radio network controllers are from a same vendor or from different vendors, comprising the steps of:

D/ determining in a said first radio network controller over said standard interface that a certain load condition exists in said environment where said data is sent via at least one of said multiple Node Bs connected to a first radio network controller and (via at least one of said multiple Node Bs connected to a second radio network controller,)

signaling a said second radio network controller over said standard interface that, said certain load condition exists using a measurement report and, in addition, a proposed action using an information element indicative thereof.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said proposed action is to restrict data flow.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the proposed action is to carry out an interfrequency handover.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the proposed action is to carry out an intersystem handover.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the proposed action is to release a radio bearer.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving the signaling from the first controller in the second controller, and

carrying out the proposed action.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said proposed action is to restrict data flow.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the proposed action is to carry out an interfrequency handover.

D) 9. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the proposed action is to carry out an intersystem handover.

10. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the proposed action is to release a radio bearer.

11. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for sharing load information between radio network controllers connected to a core network (CN) by a first standard interface (Iu) and to each other by a first second standard interface (Iur) and used for facilitating a macrodiversity function where data is sent via multiple Node Bs to a user equipment, said radio network controller for operating in an environment where the radio network controllers are from a same vendor or from different vendors, comprising:

means for determining in a said first radio network controller that a certain load condition exists in said environment where said data is sent via at least one of said multiple Node Bs connected to a first radio network controller and via at least one of said multiple Node Bs connected to a

second radio network controller; and

means for signaling a said second radio network controller over said standard interface that said certain load condition exists using a measurement request and a proposed action using an information element indicative thereof.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said proposed action is to restrict data flow.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the proposed action is to carry out an interfrequency handover.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the proposed action is to carry out an intersystem handover.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the proposed action is to release a radio bearer.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising:

means for receiving in the second controller the signaling from the first controller; and

means for carrying out the proposed action in the second controller to alleviate the overload condition.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said proposed action is to restrict data flow.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the proposed action is to carry out an interfrequency handover.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the proposed action is to carry out an intersystem handover.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the proposed action is to release a radio bearer.

21. (Previously Presented) Method for sharing load information between radio network controllers connected to each other by a first standard interface (Iur) and to a same core network by a second standard interface (Iu) and for operating in an environment where the radio network controllers are from a same vendor or from different vendors, comprising the steps of:

determining in a first radio network controller that a certain load condition exists, and

signaling a second radio network controller over said first standard interface that said certain load condition exists, using a measurement report and, in addition, a proposed action using an information element indicative thereof.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

receiving the signaling from the first controller in the second controller, and

carrying out the proposed action.

23. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for sharing load information between radio network controllers connected to each other by a first standard interface (Iur) and to a same core network by a second standard interface (Iu) and for operating in an environment where the radio network controllers are from a same vendor or from different vendors, comprising:

means for determining in a first radio network

controller that a certain load condition exists; and
means for signaling a second radio network controller
over said first standard interface that said certain load
condition exists, using a measurement report and a proposed
action using an information element indicative thereof.

D1

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 23,
further comprising:

means for receiving in the second controller the
signaling from the first controller; and

means for carrying out the proposed action in the
second controller to alleviate the overload condition.